

**LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Legislative Office Building, Room 212

Concord, NH

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. John Reagan, Chair

Sen. Jay Kahn

Sen. Bob Giuda

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. Martha Fuller Clark

Rep. Lucy Weber

Rep. Lynne Ober

Rep. Richard Barry

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner

Rep. David Huot

(The hearing convened at 10:57 a.m.)

**1. Acceptance of the March 11, 2019 meeting minutes**

JOHN REAGAN, State Senator, Senate District #17 and Chairman: We'll call the meeting to order.

Lou's here somewhere. We have -- call your attention to the minutes of March 11<sup>th</sup>. And, Representative Weber, the minutes have been revised and more accurately reflect what took place. Need a motion to approve the minutes.

**\*\*** LUCY WEBER, State Representative, Cheshire County, District #01: I move to approve the minutes as amended.

LYNNE OBER, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #37: Second.

(Representatives Wallner and Huot enter the Committee Room.)

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Any discussion? All those in favor?

**\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}**

(Senator Kahn enters the Committee Room.)

**2. Current status of ongoing performance audits**

**3. Vote on Draft Scope Statement**

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Current status.

STEPHEN SMITH, Director, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Good morning. For the record, Steve Smith, Director of Audits for the LBA.

Just want to mention to the Committee that since we last met we've had three reports presented to the Fiscal Committee; the Adult Parole Board report back in April, and this last month the Wetlands Bureau Permitting report was presented, and the Therapeutic Cannabis ID Card Timeliness will be presented Friday at Fiscal.

We have two other audits in our queue, both of which are under way. The Bureau of Voc Rehab, we had an entrance meeting back in March. Scope Statement is for your consideration here in a moment, and planning and interviews are ongoing.

And the second topic, the Liquor Enforcement Division. Liquor Enforcement and Licensing, we just had an entrance meeting on that audit just this -- a couple days ago on Monday, and we are currently scoping out that topic. And, as I said, there's no other topics in our queue; but we'll, hopefully, get a couple more later in the year. In terms of the status we're at with topics this Committee approve this. Questions?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Questions? Thank you. We can vote on the Scope Statement for Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

VILAY SKIDDS, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: I think Jay -- sorry. Vilay Skidds, for the record, LBA Performance Audit Manager. Sorry.

But Jay sent you all copies of the Scope Statement. I'd be happy to go through it if you'd like or answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Hold up, hold up. We have a motion on the Scope Statement.

\*\* REP. OBER: Move to approve.

REP. WEBER: Second.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Seconded. Do we need a discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you.

\*\*\* {MOTION ADOPTED}

(Sen. Fuller Clark entered the Committee Room.)

RICHARD BARRY, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #21: Smooth talking devil.

#### 4. Seek and discuss new audit topics

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. We have -- we have some suggested audit topics. I think we need to run this by the Chairs again and see what else we might hear from them.

REP. OBER: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Yes.

REP. OBER: Both the House Finance Chair and a member of Division III have asked that we would consider a performance audit of the Sununu Center, and I have requested that we add that on.

MARY JANE WALLNER, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #10: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay?

**LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**June 12, 2019**

REP. WALLNER: Yes.

(Senator Giuda enters the Committee room.)

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: And discussion and vote on suggested topics.

REP. WEBER: I would concur Representative Goley's request about the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. We have done several of the actual licensing divisions recently. The issue is -- I'm not -- I'm not sure whether his concern is the office itself or whether it's broader. So we might want to ask for a more definite statement from him. The other thing that is -- is a question is with a new Director. Is it a help --

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

REP. WEBER: -- to the new person or should we give him some time to fix things on their own? It's -- it's certainly something that as long as I have served on this body, which I think is my third time now, has come up again, and again, and again as issues, so.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Representative McGuire.

CAROL MCGUIRE, State Representative, Merrimack County, District #29: Yes, thank you. Representative Goley asked me to be here to answer those questions.

REP. WEBER: Oh, thank you.

REP. MCGUIRE: So, the intent of the audit is to take a look at the office as a whole. We've been reorganizing this for at least the last ten years that I know of, and we'd like to take a look and see if we have achieved our objectives, which were to get better customer service and more efficiency. So we need to look at things like the time it takes to get a license, with particular emphasis on original licenses and reciprocal

licenses, because we keep changing the law on it. We want to look at the requirements for licensing, the amount of staffing they have. Is it appropriate or necessary? And I'm also concerned that it appears that the OPLC's generating quite a large surplus, which is not the intent of. The license fees are intended to cover the cost of the office and the license and so forth. And, you know, a little bit for contingencies is fine, but some of the Boards are paying two, three times what their direct and allocated costs are, and I think that's out of line. So I'd like to look at the overall office. Do we have the right -- right fees associated with the licenses? Do we need to clean-up any of our statutes because they're a mess? No question about it.

REP. OBER: This is bigger than we usually do.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: This is -- this is --

REP. MCGUIRE: It's the whole operation.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: I mean, the health providers are in great distress over labor shortages. And then we look back and find out that they have people applying, but they can't get licenses. So that's --

REP. WALLNER: Huge.

REP. MCGUIRE: Yeah. We have all heard stories about the retiree moves into New Hampshire and whose -- when she goes for a mental health counselor license is told to go dig up her undergraduate transcripts and stuff like that. I mean, that -- so she gives up in despair. So we need to look at what, you know, it's not just the statutory requirement. It's the rules and the way the office implements them.

I've heard there are great strides on the criminal background check process, but there's still issues with getting people to fill out the paperwork completely. That's the biggest response I get when I ask about slow licenses is that the

application is incomplete. And if we've got people that can't fill out the paperwork, we either don't want them working or we want to make the paperwork easy enough so that they can do it. It shouldn't be an issue.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Representative Ober.

REP. OBER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had a couple of Boards audited and one of the things we've discovered, and I know these audits came to Fiscal so those of us who sit on Fiscal are aware of this, is that each and every Board has made its own rules for how to get a license. There's no cohesive look at what qualifies as a license for any one Board.

The OPLC as an overarching umbrella doesn't change those requirements, because those are written pretty much in statute, I think.

REP. MCGUIRE: Hm-hum.

REP. OBER: So I'm not sure how you go through and clean that up with one audit of the OPLC office, because that's kind of on us.

The second problem is I can tell you is that, and I don't know the new head, but there's no -- no automation over there.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: No.

REP. OBER: Realtors in Massachusetts apply on-line. Realtors in New Hampshire apply via paper, and I -- I think that's pretty true for every Board. And, again, since every Board controls as to how they're going to do to get somebody licensed, the overarching director really is providing back office and doesn't do a lot of the things that Representative McGuire was talking about, which are very valid points.

REP. MCGUIRE: If you think that you need to limit the scope, even identifying which boards are slower, you know, if

you do a study of licensing times and discover which Boards are the ones that are problems.

REP. OBER: Hm-hum.

REP. MCGUIRE: I wouldn't want to jump in and rationalize all of those statutes at once. But if you can come up and say the Naturopaths Board takes for ever and its statutes all screwed up, then we can focus our attempts on the places that do have problems.

REP. OBER: Would be interesting to see the comparison of every Board and every license requirement as well in statute.

REP. MCGUIRE: It would be.

REP. WEBER: Yeah.

JAY KAHN, State Senator, Senate District #10: Mr. Chairman.

REP. MCGUIRE: It has been done and there's a package about yea big.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Senator Kahn.

SEN. KAHN: Thank you. A couple of thoughts on this. One is that OPLC has divided their full span of 49 Boards, I think it is, into two different divisions, right? So one is health care and the other is all others. And because health care is somewhat similar, one would think licensing just different Boards that are doing it, overseeing their own profession. That perhaps that would be one way to divide this for their --

REP. MCGUIRE: The health care boards are much more jealous of their turf than the others. There's not much overlap between an accountant and an engineer; but you start talking about a -- a nurse practitioner, a physician, or physician assistant and you start getting into turf wars all over the place.

REP. OBER: You should see the Realtor Board if you want to see a turf war.

SEN. KAHN: Maybe we have a logic for --

REP. MCGUIRE: If you did half that might be enough.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Lucky for us we have the performance audit team, and this is their specialty to find out why things are not the way they should be.

REP. MCGUIRE: We're really looking to identify the problems.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

REP. MCGUIRE: We have a lot of anecdotal evidence and a lot of complaints, and we don't really have the data and that's what we want to know.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: We'll wait and see what they come back for a Scope Statement.

SEN. KAHN: If I could add one more on it. The volume of applicants per license would be a valuable first cut, because we get in hearings and start talking about this stuff and we don't know if we are talking about a crush of 20 at graduation time or 20 a week.

REP. MCGUIRE: Hm-hum.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Senator Giuda.

ROBERT "Bob" GIUDA, State Senator, Senate District #02: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Might be worthwhile looking at the requirements for different levels of licensure as well. And anecdotally like four thousand hours for a social worker to be accredited and can't do anything before that. That's two years. They might be able to have some work at the 2000-hour mark.



Maybe comparisons with other states might have, you know, differential levels of qualifications within the license.

REP. MCGUIRE: Having worked on that just this past year, the mental health -- the social workers, their national organization requires two years of supervised study -- of supervised practice before you can take the exam.

SEN. GIUDA: That's an example, we look at other states and perhaps regulatory relief you might get to help some of these professions get more people in, although not with the same high degree of licensure but subordinate of levels of catastrophe they can perform.

REP. MCGUIRE: That would be nice, but I don't think -- you're not going to get any help from the social workers in that process.

SEN. GIUDA: What I'm saying, I cited that as an example.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Hostile -- hostile witnesses, especially the mental health boards.

REP. WEBER: You're going to run into the national standards on a lot of those.

REP. MCGUIRE: Hm-hum.

REP. WEBER: And they are what they are. We need to figure out. But surely I've spent a lot of time this term and other terms talking about the amount of time that it takes for someone and, you know, finding the right balance between screening out a bad apple, as Representative McGuire said not having, you know, either don't give them a license at all or -- but, you know, having to go back to -- having to track back every employer or every degree or every certification back to year one is often impossible. We had a lot of anecdotes about people who've just given up and haven't sought a license here because of the impossibility.

REP. MCGUIRE: Senator Kahn took that into a bill last year that the Mental Health Board shall use experience in a neighboring state instead of going back and tracking which I think was a great idea.

JAY HENRY, Audit Supervisor, Audit Division, Office of Legislative Budget Assistant: Mr. Chair, Jay Henry from the LBA. The only thing I'm afraid of is the scope of the audit. Even if we just do half of the agencies, let's say 20 of them --

REP. OBER: Exactly.

MR. HENRY: -- that's a lot of work for us to look at all their laws, their rules, and to do that sort of comparison that you're talking about. So I'll just throw that out as a --

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: The complaints so far have been the speed with which a person can get to work in New Hampshire. So -- so you're looking for whatever impedes that.

REP. OBER: A lot of that is because we're not automated. None of those Boards accept on-line applications. In Massachusetts when a realtor, for example, to use a realtor, which is less of a -- you would think an arguable Board, but they certainly argue. But a realtor in Massachusetts takes ongoing continuing ed. hours, as they are required to here, and those are submitted automatically when it's done. Up here they have to track the pieces of paper. They have to send the pieces of paper in. The pieces of paper go awry. They have to get that piece of paper again and send it back. That's a lot of the problem up here.

REP. WEBER: It seems to me that what people are asking for, what might be helpful, is not the deep dive that -- that the Audit Division normally does, but a much shallower first cut on information from, yes, it's a broad subject area, but just if we were looking at the number of applications, the time frames, that kind of thing, as opposed to the entire workings of the

entire office. It might be a matter for -- for, you know, to focus us on what needs to be then gone into in more depth. I don't know whether you can do that or not, but it seems to me like it might be a way to resolve the issue.

MR. HENRY: We could certainly -- every agency should be collecting output data. How fast, you know, how many people are applying, how many get accepted.

REP. WEBER: If they're not that would be something --

MR. HENRY: Exactly. If you just sort of -- we might be able to do something like that.

REP. MCGUIRE: I would agree with the Representative because that would let us -- most of the requirements or nearly all of them for every single profession are in statute.

REP. WEBER: Right.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

REP. MCGUIRE: And so we're the ones that are going to have to fix them. And to spend the time on an operation that's running smoothly is not as effective as it might be.

REP. WEBER: Anyway, I would just urge that first cut be done.

REP. MCGUIRE: Certainly.

REP. WEBER: And then we could figure out what needs to be done via the policy committees.

REP. MCGUIRE: Hm-hum.

REP. WEBER: What is something that might be looked at more in more depth.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: We'll get to carve the Scope Statement up when we see that, too, so. Senator.

MARTHA FULLER CLARK, State Senator, Senate District #21: Thank you. The other question might be the issue of reciprocity. Now in terms of we accept reciprocity from other states and who doesn't. So that that serves oftentimes if they do, it will expedite the applications. If they don't, it's very challenging.

REP. MCGUIRE: We just changed the law on reciprocity.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Representative Huot.

DAVID HUOT, State Representative, Belknap County, District #03: Seems to me that, as you say, the requirements for most all of these professions and skills are in statute. That being the case, I'm wondering why we couldn't inquire into how the process is conducted to determine whether these conditions -- these things have been met. Seems like there may be a little bit of bureaucratic inertia going on and that's something that I think a performance auditor could determine. You take the -- you take the requirement and you see how it is that the -- that the Board determines whether the requirement's been met. And another thing, of course, that will -- that will immediately reveal the level of -- of information technology that's involved in the process, which in and of itself can vastly speed up things that are slow. And maybe one of the problems is that the Legislature has been more focused on the -- the operation than on the resources that they need in order to conduct all of that.

(Senator D'Allesandro enters the Committee Room.)

REP. HUOT: I mean, everybody has been talking about, you know, computers and all that.

REP. MCGUIRE: If I may, Mr. Chair?

REP. HUOT: Go ahead.

REP. MCGUIRE: The -- the implementation is one of the things that will slow down the licensing process. But the thing of it is that that is something that each Board jealously protects because that's their professional reputation. Okay. They're not just checking off boxes. They're evaluating is this person qualified for this license, and you would have to dig into the inners of each individual Board in order to find that out. Whereas if you merely took a top level look and said, the Board of Mental Health licensing issues social worker licenses within 20 days routinely, but the pastoral counsel takes six months. Okay. That's a case that says you have to look at what's the difference and what the requirements are, that sort of thing. I think -- I think a survey is an excellent idea.

REP. OBER: A lot of that's in rules, too.

REP. WEBER: And we've done a deep dive into several of the actual divisions and that I know Jeff Goley has a suggestion for the other one for the Dental Examiners, but I'd just love to see that top level information before I went further --

REP. MCGUIRE: I would, too.

REP. WEBER: -- with another division.

REP. MCGUIRE: Hm-hum.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. So --

REP. BARRY: I have one.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Absolutely.

REP. BARRY: Just want to follow on what the good Representative from Finance. We're looking at the overall picture. Should we also look at the criteria for even having a licensing board for specific items? What are the criteria? Are they consistent? Can we combine them? And if you can get to that point, maybe we could wipe out some of it.

REP. MCGUIRE: Love to. Good luck.

REP. WEBER: I'm not sure that we have --

REP. BARRY: I'll volunteer.

REP. WEBER: The criteria have been set in the individual statutes. The other Board, the overall Board was set because we had people in an office somewhere in somebody's professional office and they weren't doing any, you know, they didn't get the applications. They didn't do anything with the application. We were trying to consolidate things; but I'm not sure that there's one set of standards that can be looked at because I don't think there are -- is one.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. Let's have a show of hands or discussion on the suggested audit topics. The first one was from Representative Cushing asking how is it working out exemption from property tax for property used solely for the prevention of air and water pollution. Does that seem like something we need to audit?

REP. OBER: He wants the -- a performance audit on the effectiveness. How does he define effectiveness?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Get a Scope Statement. I just don't know that we just don't ask DRA to ask people what they're doing for getting exempt.

REP. OBER: This one sounds very nebulous because --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: It is nebulous.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Nebulous Department.

SEN. GIUDA: As far as resources.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Suggestions?

MR. SMITH: I don't know much about the law myself.

MR. HENRY: Yeah, I don't know much about the program. When I first looked at it, I wondered if it was more of a policy question. Whether they should be -- have, you know, allowed a tax exemption. You know, that's really policy and that's political and that's your business. If it's held a program or how -- how they're operating it and how it's, you know, paperwork that would be, you know, what we would do.

(A cell phone rings.)

REP. OBER: That costs money when you're in the Finance room, Lucy.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. The next request is from Representative Smith.

REP. OBER: On the Cost Containment Office.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: On the Cost Containment Office of DAS. Yeah, I think we have done it in the budget you'll see some of that.

REP. OBER: What's in the budget that deals with this?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: I don't know.

REP. OBER: Lou.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: The dollar amount. And the fact that if you are innocent you don't have to pay. You don't have to pay -- pay the fee.

REP. OBER: Okay. But the dollar amount for what the match you can collect?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: No, no, no. The dollar amount would be lost based on the changes made and the fact that, if you remember --

(The court reporter interrupts.)

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: You remember we discussed this in Finance, the dollar amount that would be lost by those people who were paying now but who were innocent. We have changed the law so they don't have to pay now and we lose about \$30,000. That was -- I think that was the basic change, which I think was good. It worked out. There was great concern about the loss of revenue. But when we pinned it down to about 30,000, it was -- it was a simple move in the budget process to approve.

REP. OBER: So are you suggesting that this audit not be done until after the new law takes effect or that audit be put off until we see what happens?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: The law -- the change was just policy.

REP. OBER: Yeah.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: But if -- the depth and scope of the things that are presented here talk about the operational capability --

REP. OBER: Yeah.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: -- of the entity. If you want to examine the operational capability --

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: So we can put this on the list.

REP. OBER: So we can put this on the list. That's what I was trying to figure out where you were going.



SEN. GIUDA: I would submit there isn't a question on there that can't be asked of the Department can't give an answer. I am not sure commit the resources with something like --

REP. OBER: She said they had the questions but they were not answered.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay.

REP. OBER: Will we add the audit of the Sununu Center on which was a verbal request, not a written request?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Sure. Without objection we'll place that on the possibilities list. We've discussed OPLC. And we have another request. Mark. Representative Proulx for the Board of Dental Examiners, you want to speak to that?

MARK PROULX, State Representative, Hillsborough County, District #44: Sure. I put this in because I had a constituent who graduated dental hygienist school. Mark Proulx, State Rep, Hillsborough 44. She graduated dental hygienist school and found it to be an arduous process. The forms were confusing. There was two separate licenses and at the time this person came to me all her friends who went to work in Massachusetts were already licensed and working.

REP. OBER: Oh, yeah, well, they were automated.

REP. PROULX: Yeah. So they had your basic license with a fee and then if you took anesthesia or for the anesthesia license was another form and another license and another fee, and she had to come up with her teacher signing off that she passed it when the transcripts had anesthesia with an A+ next to it. I mean, there was --

REP. OBER: That's probably in rules as opposed to being in the State statutes.

REP. PROULX: Well, I asked for a copy of their rules and I'm still waiting for them.

REP. OBER: Aren't they on-line?

REP. PROULX: Hm?

REP. OBER: I think they're on-line. I'll look because that's an interesting --

REP. PROULX: And when I called to ask about this process, they were not very helpful whatsoever and just kind of put road blocks up and made it difficult. And, you know, I had to talk to this person. You know, I had to talk to that person. It was just -- it was just a mess. And this poor girl. And then she finally got through. She graduated like late January, early February. And then March came around and that's a renewal month and she had to pay all the fees all over again. And I said we don't pro rate? No, we don't pro rate.

REP. OBER: Oh, that's like registering a car, getting a new car too early and registering it.

REP. PROULX: So, you know, she got to work one month on a whole year worth of fees and, you know, had to pay them again. I didn't think that was right at all.

REP. OBER: One of the problems in the OPLC, in my opinion, is that Director has no authority over any of the individual boards --

REP. PROULX: Hm.

REP. OBER: -- to force them to make any decisions. It's really administrative back office.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: We have a new Director so you'll have to -- that will play into your interviews.

REP. OBER: But he has no -- no legislative authority to do anything with those boards. They make their own rules.

SEN. GIUDA: OPLC has authority.

REP. OBER: Yeah, but so does each individual Board. I don't believe the rulemaking for OPLC overall lets them override the individual board.

SEN. GIUDA: Right.

REP. MCGUIRE: It does on fees but not on -- not on processing.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. Thanks, Mark.

REP. PROULX: Thank you.

## **5. Other business**

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Any other suggested topics? And do the members want hard copies or PDF copies and how about -- now we get hard copies to our offices. So --

SEN. GIUDA: I vote for hard copies, because I can go through and mark them up.

REP. OBER: Yeah, I do the same thing. You can't markup PDF ones.

REP. WEBER: I'm drowning in paper so I would just as soon not have the hard copies. I now have a stack.

REP. OBER: The answer to that do you prefer this is yes, but some prefer the other.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Jay.

REP. OBER: Walk to school or bring your lunch.

MR. HENRY: Just want to make sure that which topics you -- as a Board you want us to do. And if you want us to do the professional licensure, is it the whole thing? Is it one of the divisions? I just want to make sure we're clear when we leave here.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: We are interested in the Board of Dental Examiners.

MR. HENRY: All right, as a separate audit.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right. And then the OPLC we are interested in the process, what's wrong with their process that they can't get these things.

REP. OBER: I think what's wrong the individual Boards have ultimate control.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay.

REP. WEBER: It was just that first initial cut of information.

MR. HENRY: Survey of the --

REP. WEBER: For us to figure out what we wanted to take a deeper dive into. I think we all acknowledge that it's a large topic, but we need to figure out where to focus.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

REP. WEBER: And did we put the Sununu Center on the list? I'm sorry, and let me apologize for the interruption.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. So without objection we'll add the Sununu Center.

SEN. KAHN: What is the scope? I mean, just they'll figure it out. Yes.

REP. WALLNER: I think that in the last couple of years we've changed the laws about children entering the Sununu Center, and I think there's been some questions about whether -- how -- how that's working, whether the appropriate children are actually going into -- into the center. So I'd look for, you know, the appropriate placement and whether the laws, the recent laws are being followed, and then, also, I think the staffing levels at the -- both the facility and the school and taking a look at that.

The population has dropped considerably and to take a look at those -- to take a look at those staffing levels and whether or not that seems appropriate for the number of children that are being served.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: So on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June there's going to be a forum with some national experts on Juvenile Justice.

REP. WALLNER: Hm-hum.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: And they have things to say about detaining juveniles.

REP. WALLNER: Right.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: So it will be -- it should be in both calendars this week and everybody's invited to attend that.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Where's it going to be, John?

REP. WALLNER: It's here.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: In the Finance.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: The Finance room?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Yep.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Great! Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Will we all fit?

REP. BARRY: Mr. Chair, didn't we have a pretty in-depth study of the Sununu Center four years ago that I believe you were part of?

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: They've done that, but we keep changing the laws and then it changes what's going on.

REP. HUOT: Just throw out in the background, the Sununu Center is a response to the Juvenile Justice System. Those of us can remember back then --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

REP. HUOT: -- we had the Industrial School.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, we did.

REP. HUOT: Right? And at that time the Juvenile Justice System was nothing like it is today.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: A whole different ball game.

REP. HUOT: Warehousing -- well, warehousing in a lot of areas was --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: We were king of warehouses in those days.

REP. HUOT: That's right.

REP. BARRY: You going to give us the answer?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: One here in Concord. Called it New Hampshire Hospital.

REP. HUOT: But the process, the Juvenile Justice process involved a lot of children being detained and then actually as we would say in the adult cases sentenced to this facility. And there were a lot of them.

Over the years the justice system has, some of us say, somewhat enlightened, but at least it has changed to the point where detaining juveniles is a lot rarer than it used to be and actually committing them for any length of time is even more restricted. So what you see, and I can remember sitting over there in Finance and listening to Neal Kurk holler and scream about how much it cost for meals at the Sununu Center where it was different from everywhere else. It was because you had too few people requiring too many resources in order to sustain it.

And so a review of all of that is definitely in order because at some point or other somebody in the Legislature is going to decide maybe we ought to either repurpose that place or get rid of it. And, of course, it's on North River Road, so.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: It's the high price spread.

REP. HUOT: It's a high price spread. That's just a little background on why all this is happening and it is -- it is ripe for that kind of a study. An actual performance audit of how they do their job probably won't get a lot of -- a lot of push back on that, but you have to look at the whole picture. Why do we have all this and what are the components that we need to -- we need to fix?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: And the facility is being used for other resources as we speak.

REP. HUOT: Yeah.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: We rent out a portion of Sununu Center at this point in time. And I want to be perfectly clear. My wife's great uncle was Superintendent of the Sununu Development Center in the 1940s.

REP. HUOT: Oh, really?

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Major Morgenstern was Superintendent. The Major was Superintendent of the YDC when it was the Industrial School.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Are there any other items we need to discuss?

MR. HENRY: I just want to make sure the very first one a topic you didn't want, the tax exempt, or did you want to do that one? The first --

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: I would be opposed to that one.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: I think there's an easier way to get information.

MR. HENRY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Maybe through DRA.

MR. HENRY: I see four topics right now that sounds like you're -- you want us to do. The cost -- Office of Cost Containment.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

MR. HENRY: Dental Examiners.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Right.

MR. HENRY: Professional Licensure and Sununu Center.



REP. OBER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Yep.

REP. OBER: You got them.

CHAIRMAN REAGAN: Okay. With that, we are adjourned to the call of the Chair.

MR. SMITH: I guess we are kind of looking for a formal motion.

\*\* SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So move.

REP. HUOT: Second.

REP. OBER: Second.

MR. STEPHEN: Vote and acceptance that these are the four topics that you wanted.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: So move on these four topics.

SEN. FULLER CLARK: Second.

SEN. KAHN: Aye.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: All in favor? Aye.

\*\*\* **{MOTION ADOPTED}**

(Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.)

## CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask  
Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRK  
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